



MAX SCHULTE staff photographer

The fall guy East Rochester's unbeaten Ryan Wilson takes McQuaid's Jamil Walker down at a recent match. Wilson, the defending sectional Class C champ at 98 pounds, is 82-13 in his four-year career.

ER's Wilson proves he's no 98-pound weakling



By JEFF DiVERONICA
STAFF WRITER

When Ryan Wilson looks into his opponent's eyes before each match, he doesn't see the fear. Just being a wrestler from East Rochester used to carry that kind of weight, even for 98-pounders.



Wilson

It was different in the days of Don Quinn, the coach who built the Bombers into a state powerhouse from 1958-89. His teams won 17 Monroe County and 13 consecutive Section V titles and his 1984 squad was rated No. 1 in the state.

"I really don't think they know about our tradition," Wilson says. "The coaches probably remember, but a lot of wrestlers I face have only been around a couple of years. They know a few years ago we won sectionals, but since then we've been going downhill."

Not anymore.

The Bombers are back, and they are led by Wilson, a senior who is 26-0 with victories at the Webster, Bradshaw (Canandaigua) and Fulton tournaments. He is the top seed at 98 pounds at the Monroe County Wrestling Championships today and tomorrow at Webster.

ER is 11-4 overall coming off a 6-11 season last year.

Ryan Wilson

School: East Rochester

Year: Senior **Age:** 17

Height: 5-4 **Weight:** 98

Academic average: 89

Favorite food: Lasagna

95-96 record: 26-0

Career: 82-13

Other sports: cross country, track.

Despite losing Wednesday night to East Division rival Brighton, the Class C Bombers have a 6-1 league record with wins over Class A schools Fairport, Penfield and Webster.

Quinn would be proud. One philosophy his teams thrived upon was, the bigger they are, the harder they fall.

The new architect at ER is Fred Ciaburri, in his first year as coach.

"I want to build respect back into the program," says Ciaburri, 45. "I want wrestling to be important again to the kids and the community."

Ciaburri left Palmyra-Macedon to be athletic direc-

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Wilson

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tor and assistant principal at ER in 1990. He is trying to duplicate what he did at Pal-Mac for 16 years as coach: a record of 152-38-2, 10 Wayne County titles and four sectional banners.

His presence has stabilized a program that had three coaches the past four seasons. ER still won the Class C title in 1993 and '94 and tied for the Monroe County Division II championship three seasons ago. But this year the Bombers finally have enough wrestlers to fill out their lineup.

"At first we thought we weren't supposed to like him because he was our athletic director," says Wilson, whose career record is 82-13. "We thought we'd be too used to our old coach, but actually it's been pretty cool. Practice seems a little better and we all are more enthused."

Ciaburri has had a similar reaction to Wilson's performance.

"He's a tremendous leader," Ciaburri says. "He doesn't really say a lot, he's a typical wrestler — an introvert. He does his talking in the

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RYAN WILSON

East Rochester wrestler

wrestling room and on the mat."

Wilson, who credits former coach Mike Cronmiller for laying the foundation for his technique, has an advantage over most of his opponents.

"I'm not very big or strong but I'm pretty fast," he says. "I mainly use my speed and experience. I know what to do and what not to do."

He was the inexperienced one when he first stepped on to the mat at ER in eighth grade after moving from Webster. He has progressed steadily, going 3-1 as a freshman, 20-8 as a sophomore and 33-4 last season when he won the Class C title

at 98. He lost in the quarterfinals of the SuperSectionals state qualifier.

"As a senior at 98 he's physically stronger than kids he's wrestling," Ciaburri says. "But he has a tendency to be very conservative in big matches. He needs to open it up a little more, but that comes with confidence."

Which he is gaining with wins like his 1-0 squeaker in the Bradshaw final over a wrestler from Falconer who reached the state tournament last season.

"Before (the match) I get kind of nervous," Wilson says. "But while I'm wrestling and if I'm beating my kid it kind of makes me feel that I'm better than I think I am. It gives me confidence that I can do something."

He may be limited to summer wrestling the next few years if he decides to attend St. John Fisher, which doesn't have a team, but for now he is only concerned with trying to reach the state tournament. He knows there are road blocks such as Holley's Ashley-John Grillo and Lyndonville's Tom Russo. "I think he's one of the top three," Ciaburri says of Wilson. "With Grillo and Russo, I think you have to mention Ryan Wilson." □

County championships

Where: Webster High School.

Schedule: Today — qualifying rounds, 4 p.m.; quarterfinals, 7:30 p.m.; consolation first round, 8:30 p.m. Saturday — consolation, 11 a.m.; semifinals, 12:30 p.m.; finals, 6 p.m.

Admission: \$2 adult, \$1 children

Top seeds: 91 pounds — Tom Lodadio (Greece Athena); 98 — Ryan Wilson (East Rochester); 105 — A.J. Miller (Spencerport); 112 — Steve Lacagnina (Penfield); 119 — Chris Kemp (Pittsford); 126 — Jason DeBruin (Spencerport); 132 — Don Carlo Clauss (Olympia); 138 — Keith Wallman (Pittsford); 145 — Pat Spencer (Rush-Henrietta); 155 — Nick Zito (Brighton); 167 — Jeremy Chiarelli (Spencerport); 177 — Mark Schermerhorn (Hilton); 215 — Wayne Brockmar (Eastridge); 250 — Chris Olchewski (Spencerport).

Returning champs: Miller (last year at 98); Lacagnina (105); DeBruin (119); Pete Fox, Webster (126); Chiarelli.

Weight classes to watch: 119, 126, 155.